

## **STATUS REPORT ON KEY INDICATORS**

**Agenda Item D-5  
November 13, 2000**

Staff work continues on schedule for developing measures to monitor progress toward postsecondary reform. In March 2000, the Council informally endorsed the use of five questions to frame a brief set of key indicators:

- Are more Kentuckians ready for college?
- Are more students enrolling?
- Are students advancing through the system?
- Are Kentuckians prepared for life and work?
- Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

### **Activities**

Since the last status report in May 2000, the Council staff has:

- Sought advice and provided status reports at monthly meetings of the Council of Chief Academic Officers.
- Convened a special workshop for Chief Academic Officers, Chief Budget Officers, and campus institutional research staff in August to discuss the national report card being prepared by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, draft key indicators, and the Web-based consumer information system under development. The workshop was conducted by Dennis Jones, President of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.
- Held five meetings of the Survey Advisory Group (campus representatives working on the National Survey of Student Engagement and the alumni and employer satisfaction surveys).
- Met with staff of the Kentucky Department of Education, the Education Professional Standards Board, the Workforce Development Cabinet, the State Data Center, the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, the Department for Employment Services, and ACT, Inc. staff. The meetings explored ways to draw useful data from all these sources.
- Made presentations to and sought advice from the P-16 Council and the Congress of Senate Faculty Leaders.
- Featured the "five questions" at the annual trusteeship conference in September.
- Compiled a data book describing the proposed metrics and goal projections for statewide and institutional indicators.
- Scheduled campus visits with chief academic officers and institutional research staff to review the data book and seek advice on the staff's work to date (six completed as of mailout; all completed by the Council meeting).
- Discussed the draft key indicators with the Governor's Cabinet, in the context of broad statewide performance indicators tied to the Governor's strategic agenda.

Attachment A is the latest discussion draft of key indicators. Conversations with institutional representatives have been fruitful. The Council staff will issue a revised draft upon their completion and after the November Council meeting.

## **Next Steps**

In early December, the staff will incorporate fall 2000 actual data into the data book and will propose statewide and institutional goals for 2002 for most indicators. The Council staff will meet with staff from each of the institutions in January 2001 to negotiate goals (a process similar to the one used to set enrollment goals in 1999).

Meanwhile, the Council staff will seek advice throughout December, January, and February about proposed key indicators and the companion consumer information system from other interested individuals and groups, including the P-16 Council, the Prichard Committee, the Kentucky Innovation Commission, community and business leaders, labor groups, faculty and students, legislators, and the Governor's Office.

Council members will review and discuss proposed indicators and goals at their February meeting. The staff anticipates Council action in March. For some indicators, such as those taken from alumni and employer surveys, baseline data will not be available until the surveys have been developed and administered. This work will continue into 2001. The staff will seek Council approval for these indicators and goals when work on them is complete.

The Council staff also will continue development of the broader consumer information system and the unbundling of Kentucky's data from the national report card (scheduled to be released in late November). The intent is to enable government and campus leaders to make informed decisions about postsecondary education in Kentucky. For example, comparative data will be accessible on the Internet to show how college participation or graduation rates differ across counties within the state or across subgroups of the population, such as race or gender. It will tell us whether retention rates differ for high school graduates compared to GED completers, how underprepared students advance through the system compared to students who are ready for college, and whether transfer students are more or less likely than native students to complete their bachelor's degrees. Work on the consumer information system will continue into 2001.